AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 7, 12, 16, 46, and 47 and add new claims 54-58, as shown in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the claims:

1. – 3. (canceled)

4 (currently amended). A kit for indicating the presence of nucleic acid in a sample, the kit comprising:

a. a dry substrate for lysing cells and purifying nucleic acid therefrom consisting of:

i. a solid matrix, wherein the solid matrix comprises nitrocellulose or nylon; and

ii. a coating sorbed to the solid matrix, wherein the coating comprises a cellular lysis reagent comprising an anionic surfactant or detergent at a concentration ~~sufficient to induce~~ which induces cellular lysis; and

b. an indicator ~~for detecting~~ which detects the presence of nucleic acid, [[which]] wherein the nucleic acid is maintained on the solid matrix, the indicator comprising an external substance which generates a signal in an assay.

5 (previously presented). The kit according to claim 4, wherein said indicator is selected from the group consisting essentially of a fluorescent indicator, color indicator or photometric indicator.

6 (previously presented). The kit according to claim 4, wherein said substrate is in a shape selected from the group consisting essentially of a swab, a sheet, a card, and a ball.

7 (currently amended). The kit according to claim 6, wherein said substrate further includes an integrity maintenance means which reduces degradation or loss of the matrix or the nucleic acid.

8 (previously presented). The kit according to claim 7, wherein when said substrate is a sheet, said integrity maintenance means is a plastic bag.

9. – 11. (canceled)

12 (currently amended). A kit for purifying nucleic acid comprising:

a. a dry substrate comprising:

i. a solid matrix, wherein the solid matrix comprises nitrocellulose or nylon; and

ii. a coating sorbed to the solid matrix, wherein the coating comprises a cellular lysis reagent comprising an anionic surfactant or detergent at a concentration ~~sufficient to induce~~ which induces cellular lysis;

b. an indicator ~~for detecting~~ which detects the presence of nucleic acid, [[which]] wherein the nucleic acid is maintained on the solid substrate, the indicator comprising an external substance which generates a signal in an assay; and

c. an integrity maintenance means ~~for preserving the matrix and purifying nucleic acid~~ which reduces degradation or loss of the matrix or the nucleic acid.

13 (previously presented). The kit according to claim 12, wherein said coated matrix is in a shape selected from the group consisting essentially of a swab, a sheet, a card, and a ball.

14 (previously presented). The kit according to claim 12, wherein said coated matrix is in a shape selected from the group consisting essentially of a plastic bag, cellophane, a sealable container, cartridge and parafilm.

15 (canceled).

16 (currently amended). A blood card for labeling blood transfusion bags comprising:

a. a dry substrate comprising a solid matrix selected from the group consisting of nitrocellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, polyester, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene and porous ceramics, wherein the solid matrix further comprises a chemical coating sorbed to the solid matrix, the chemical coating comprising:

i. a weak base;

ii. a chelating agent; and

iii. a cellular lysis reagent comprising an anionic surfactant or detergent at a concentration ~~sufficient to induce~~ which induces cellular lysis; and

b. an indicator ~~for detecting~~ which detects the presence of nucleic acid, [[which]] wherein the nucleic acid is maintained on the solid matrix, the indicator comprising an external substance which generates a signal in an assay; and

c. an integrity maintenance means which reduces degradation or loss of the matrix or the nucleic acid..

17. – 36. (canceled)

37 (previously presented). The kit of claim 4, wherein the anionic surfactant or detergent is selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), alky aryl sulfonates, sodium tetradecylsulfate long chain (fatty) alcohol sulfates, sodium 2-ethylhexysulfate olefine sulfates, sulfosuccinates or phosphate esters.

38 (previously presented). The kit of claim 37, wherein:

a. the weak base comprises a Tris or trishydroxymethyl methane; and

b. the chelating agent comprises ethylenediamine tetra-acetic acid (EDTA).

39 (previously presented). The kit of claim 4, wherein the anionic surfactant or detergent comprises sodium dodecyl sulfate at a concentration of from about 5% to about 10%.

40 (previously presented). The kit of claim 4, wherein the coating further comprises a free radical trap.

41 (previously presented). The kit of claim 12, wherein the anionic surfactant or detergent is selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), alky aryl sulfonates, sodium tetradecylsulfate long chain (fatty) alcohol sulfates, sodium 2-ethylhexysulfate olefine sulfates, sulfosuccinates or phosphate esters.

42 (previously presented). The kit of claim 41, wherein:

a. the weak base comprises a Tris or trishydroxymethyl methane; and

b. the chelating agent comprises ethylenediamine tetra-acetic acid (EDTA).

43 (previously presented). The kit of claim 12, wherein the anionic surfactant or detergent comprises sodium dodecyl sulfate at a concentration of from about 5% to about 10%.

44 (previously presented). The kit of claim 12, wherein the chemical coating further comprises a free radical trap.

45 (previously presented). The kit of claim 12, wherein the indicator is selected from the group consisting essentially of a fluorescent indicator, color indicator or photometric indicator.

46 (currently amended). A kit for labeling blood transfusion bags comprising:

a. a dry substrate comprising a solid matrix selected from the group consisting of nitrocellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, polyester, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene and porous ceramics, the solid matrix being coated with a chemical coating sorbed to the solid matrix, the chemical coating comprising a weak base, a chelating agent, and a cellular lysis reagent comprising an anionic surfactant or detergent at a concentration ~~sufficient to induce~~ which induces cellular lysis;

b. an indicator ~~for detecting~~ which detects the presence of nucleic acid, [[which]] wherein the nucleic acid is maintained on the solid matrix, the indicator comprising an external substance which generates a signal in an assay; and

c. an integrity maintenance means which reduces degradation or loss of the matrix or the nucleic acid..

47 (currently amended). A kit for purifying nucleic acid comprising:

a. a dry substrate for lysing cells and purifying nucleic acid comprising a solid matrix comprising nitrocellulose, the solid matrix being coated with a chemical coating sorbed to the solid matrix, the chemical coating comprising:

i. a weak base;

ii. a chelating agent; and

iii. a cellular lysis reagent comprising an anionic surfactant or detergent at a concentration ~~sufficient to induce~~ which induces cellular lysis; and

b. an indicator ~~for detecting~~ which detects the presence of nucleic acid, wherein:

i. the indicator comprises an external substance which generates a signal in an assay; and

ii. the indicator comprises a polyethyleneimine conjugate or an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA).

48 (previously presented). The kit of claim 47, wherein the anionic surfactant or detergent is selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), alky aryl sulfonates, sodium tetradecylsulfate long chain (fatty) alcohol sulfates, sodium 2-ethylhexysulfate olefine sulfates, sulfosuccinates or phosphate esters.

49 (previously presented). The kit of claim 47, wherein:

a. the weak base comprises a Tris or trishydroxymethyl methane; and

b. the chelating agent comprises ethylenediamine tetra-acetic acid (EDTA).

50 (previously presented). The kit of claim 47, wherein the anionic surfactant or detergent comprises sodium dodecyl sulfate at a concentration of from about 5% to about 10%.

51 (previously presented). The kit of claim 47, wherein the chemical coating further comprises a free radical trap.

52 (previously presented). The kit of claim 47, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a sequence of interest and the indicator comprises an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA) using antibodies to the sequence of interest.

53 (previously presented). The kit of claim 4, wherein the indicator comprises a polyethyleneimine conjugate or an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA).

54 (new). The kit of claim 7, wherein the integrity maintenance means reduces contact of the matrix of the dry substrate, or nucleic acid stored thereon, with a contaminant.

55 (new). The kit of claim 12, wherein the integrity maintenance means reduces contact of the matrix of the dry substrate, or nucleic acid stored thereon, with a contaminant.

56 (new). The kit of claim 16, wherein the integrity maintenance means reduces contact of the matrix of the dry substrate, or nucleic acid stored thereon, with a contaminant.

57 (new). The kit of claim 46, wherein the integrity maintenance means reduces contact of the matrix of the dry substrate, or nucleic acid stored thereon, with a contaminant.

58 (new). The kit of claim 47, wherein the integrity maintenance means reduces contact of the matrix of the dry substrate, or nucleic acid stored thereon, with a contaminant.